



# WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### "Felony Lane Gang" type thefts hit West Lafayette

*West Lafayette, Indiana, September 6, 2013*

On September 2, 2013 during the afternoon hours, two vehicles were broken into at Happy Hollow Park. Both vehicles had the windows busted out and a woman's purse was taken from each. Although vehicle break-ins are not uncommon throughout the United States, what happens next is. The suspects quickly assume the victim's identity and begin cashing stolen personal checks left in the purses as well as using credit and debit cards.

This type of criminal activity is taking place all over the country and recently several cities here in Indiana. The name "Felony Lane Gang" was given to these individuals due to the fact that they often use the farthest drive thru teller lane in hopes of avoiding surveillance cameras. It's unknown if the West Lafayette thefts are part of this "gang" or just a growing trend of criminal activity.

The vehicle break-ins are taking place at public parks, gyms, daycares, supermarkets, and even cemeteries. These locations seem to be targeted due to the fact that these are places people visit for a short period of time and intentionally leave their purse in a vehicle. The purpose of this press release is to educate the citizens of Tippecanoe County about this type of criminal activity and where they may be more susceptible to such crimes.

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